September 21, 2015

Director's Matters

*Guest column by Laleña Lancaster, Inside Science News Content Production Specialist*

Making Inside Science TV useful for classrooms

Hearing from teachers who use Inside Science products in their classroom and from students who are inspired by the content has encouraged Inside Science to explore repurposing and developing its news and information content for the classroom. With tight school budgets limiting the purchase of textbooks that quickly become out of date, teachers have told us our online stories can show their students what’s new and what’s really happening in science. Seeing the opportunities my son has in an engineering academic track in high school has made me more aware of the need to support teachers and motivate students to pursue science and technology careers.

One of the first attempts at repurposing Inside Science TV (ISTV) videos for educational purposes was with Infobase Learning, a provider of supplemental educational materials to schools and libraries. Through our relationship with them, ISTV videos have been viewed 24,755 times by students and faculty in 2014 and 2015.

The National Science Foundation has also taken an interest in Inside Science and has posted our content on their Science360 and Knowledge Network platforms. They also introduced us to contacts at the National Science Teachers Association, who expressed interest in our efforts.
New 2-in-1 platform for SPS and Sigma pi Sigma websites

On September 10, AIP launched new websites for the Society of Physics Students (SPS) and Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honor society housed within SPS. The SPS communications team, working in concert with the AIP web team and SPS staff, developed the sites using Drupal. Early in the process, it was determined that the most efficient approach would be to power both sites using a single content management system, significantly reducing development time. The resulting sites are nearly identical in layout, design, and functionality, each with a unique header and color scheme. Content that is relevant to both organizations can be easily deployed on either site. The responsive designs provide a greatly enhanced user experience on smart phones and other mobile devices.

Read more.
SPS Observer, Summer 2015

The summer issue of the SPS Observer is themed: “Grow Your Community: SPS opens doors to a much larger world.” The cover mosaic was created from thousands of SPS photos submitted by SPS chapters in their annual chapter reports, contributed by SPS award recipients, and taken by SPS staff.

Coming Up

September 24
- ACP Picnic (College Park)

September 28
- AIPP Journal Editors Conference (Melville, NY)

September 28-29
- AIP Board of Directors meeting (Washington, DC)

September 30
- AIP Publishing Partnership Committee meeting (Melville, NY)

October 1
- ACP Blood Drive (College Park)

October 5-7
- Nobel Prize announcements for Physiology or Medicine (10/5), Physics (10/6), and Chemistry (10/7). The Anticipating Nobel Reception will take place at ACP on October 5, from 6-9 pm (tickets required - inquiries can be directed to development@aip.org). (College Park, MD)

October 6
- ACP Flu Shot (College Park)

October 11-15
- SOR 87th Annual Meeting (Baltimore, MD)
  October 18-21
- ASTRO’s 57th Annual Meeting (AAPM) (San Antonio, TX)
  October 18-22
- OSA 99th Annual Meeting & Exhibit (San Jose, CA)
  October 18-23
- AVS International Symposium & Exhibition (San Jose, CA)